

STATE OF NEW YORK  
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY  
BUFFALO, NY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

*Honoring National Freedom Day*

**WHEREAS**, today marks *National Freedom Day*, a day that commemorates President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the joint resolution that established the Constitution's 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, many people in the United States reflect on and remember the importance of freedom on National Freedom Day; and

**WHEREAS**, some educational institutions may incorporate themes relating to National Freedom Day as part of class discussions, readings, and other learning activities that explore the importance of the day and its history; and

**WHEREAS**, February 1 has been designated as National Freedom Day in the United States to celebrate and recognize the abolition of slavery and to acknowledge this joyful celebration across Erie County, New York State and the United States of America to fittingly note the contributions of African Americans throughout history; and

**WHEREAS**, National Freedom Day was founded by Major Richard Robert Wright, a former enslaved person who made remarkable contributions in education, banking, politics, civic affairs and real estate and became a post-reconstruction pioneer and trailblazer; and

**WHEREAS**, Wright also owned several newspapers and founded the National Freedom Day Association; and

**WHEREAS**, National Freedom Day is also a time to reflect on the struggles and victories of African Americans throughout our country's history; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the importance in diversity, peace, and the importance on fulfilling our Nation's great legacy of equality and opportunity for all to genuinely experience freedom and justice.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that this Honorable Body hereby recognize February 1, 2023 as *National Freedom Day* and encourage all individuals to understand the importance of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment and to promote good feelings, harmony, and equal opportunity among all citizens and to remember that the United States is a nation dedicated to the ideal of freedom.

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**Hon. April N.M. Baskin**  
*Erie County Legislator, 2<sup>nd</sup> District*

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**Hon. Howard J. Johnson Jr.**  
*Erie County Legislator, 1<sup>st</sup> District*